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CIACO      NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 16, 1981

POLAND: Second Day of Congress

*Both hardline and reform-minded delegates probably are happy-- but for different reasons--with yesterday's decision to elect the Central Committee before the first secretary. [REDACTED]*

Many of the moderates would like the Central Committee to be a stronger institution capable of acting as a check against the top party leadership. Electing it first is a symbolic way of getting it started in that direction. The hardliners favored delaying the election of the first secretary because they did not want Kania to be in a position to dominate and direct the course of the congress from the outset. [REDACTED]

Kania's supporters may not have fought the change too strenuously. They probably calculated that Kania is still the heavy favorite and did not want to alienate reform-minded delegates by prolonging the debate. The congress began selecting nominees for the Central Committee late yesterday and may not elect a new party leader until Friday. [REDACTED]

Kania's chances of gaining reelection may be aided by some of the crude tactics of his hardline critics. They apparently were responsible for circulating a letter--allegedly from ex-party boss Gomulka--claiming that Kania was partially responsible for the brutal suppression of the riots in 1970. This accusation has never been levied against Kania before and, coming from the conservatives, will be seen as a transparent political maneuver. [REDACTED]

The threat of major strikes during the congress appears to be receding. Dockworkers on the Baltic Coast have deferred their planned strike in response to government agreement to resume discussion of their grievances. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release  
Date AUG 1999